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Salt dissolved, upon fixation, returns to its affected cubes, and regular figures of minerals, as the hexagonal of chrysolite, and stellar figure of the stone aëria. *Glaville.*

STELLATE. *adj.* [stellatus, Latin.] Pointed in the manner of a painted star.

One making a regulus of antimony, without iron, found his regulus adorned with a more conspicuous star than I have seen in several stellate regulus's of antimony and mars. *Boyle.*

STELLATION. *n. f.* [from stella.] Emission of light as from a star.

STELLIFEROUS. *adj.* [stella and fero.] Having stars. *Dict. Answorb.*

STELLION. *n. f.* [stellio, Latin.] A newt.

STELLIONATE. *n. f.* [stellionat, French; stellionatus, Latin.]

A kind of crime which is committed [in law] by a deceitful selling of a thing otherwise than it really is: as, if a man should sell that for his own estate which is actually another man's.

It discerneth of crimes of stellionate, and the inchoations towards crimes capital, not actually committed. *Bacon.*

STEM. *n. f.* [stemma, Latin.]

1. The stalk; the twig.

Two lovely berries molded on one stem, *Shakespeare.*

So with two seeming bodies, but one heart.

After they are first shot up thirty foot in length, they spread a very large top, having no bough nor twig in the trunk or stem. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

Set them alope a reasonable depth, and then they will put forth many roots, and so carry more shoots upon a stem. *Bacon.*

This, ere it was in 't earth,

God made, and ev'ry herb, before it grew

On the green stem. *Milt. Parad. Lost.*

The stem thus threaten'd and the sap in thee,

Drops all the branches of that noble tree. *Waller.*

Farewell, you flow'rs, whose buds with early care

I watch'd, and to the cheerful sun did rear:

Who now shall bind your stems? or, when you fall,

With fountain streams your fainting souls recall? *Dryden.*

The low'ring Spring with lavish rain

Beats down the slender stem and bearded grain. *Dryden.*

2. Family; race; generation. Pedigrees are drawn in the form of a branching tree.

This is a stem

Of that victorious flock, and let us fear

His native mightiness. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*

I will assay her worth to celebrate,

And so attend ye toward her glistering state;

Where ye may all, that are of noble stem,

Approach. *Milton.*

Whoever will undertake the imperial diadem, must have

of his own wherewith to support it; which is one of the reasons that it hath continued these two ages and more in that stem, now so much spoken of. *Havel's Vocal Forest.*

Do'st thou in bounds aspire to deathless fame?

Learn well their lineage and their ancient stem. *Tickell.*

3. [Stammen, Swedish.] The prow or forepart of a ship.

Orante's barque, ev'n in the hero's view,

From stem to stern, by waves was overborn. *Dryden.*

To STEM. *v. a.* [stemma, Icelandic.] To oppose a current;

to pass cross or forward notwithstanding the stream.

They on the trading flood,

Through the wide Ethiopian to the cape

Ply, stemming nightly tow'rd the Pole. *Milt. Par. Lost.*

Above the deep they raise their scaly crests,

And stem the flood with their erected breasts. *Denham.*

In shipping such as this, the Irish kern

And untaught Indian, on the stream did glide,

Ere sharp-keel'd boats to stem the flood did learn. *Dryden.*

Or fin-like oars did spread from either side,

At length Erasmus, that great injur'd name,

Stemm'd the wild torrent of a barbarous age,

And drove those holy Vandals off the stage. *Pope.*

STENCH. *n. f.* [from stencan, Saxon.]

1. A stink; a bad smell.

Death, death; oh amiable and lovely death!

Thou odoriferous stench, found rottenness,

Arise forth from thy couch of lasting night. *Shaksp. K. John.*

So bees with smoke, and doves with noisome stench,

Are from their hives, and houses, driv'n away. *Shakespeare.*

Physicians by the stench of feathers cure the rising of the mother. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

The ministry will be found the salt of the earth, the only thing that keeps societies of men from stench and corruption. *Saith's Sermons.*

The hoary Nar,

Corrupted with the stench of sulphur flows,

And into Tiber's streams th' infected current throws. *Addis.*

2. I find it used once for a good smell.

Black bulls and bearded goats on altars lie,

And clouds of sav'ry stench involve the sky. *Dryden.*

To STENCH. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

To make to stink.

The foulness of the ponds only stencheth the water. *Mortim.*

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2. [For staunch, corruptly.] To stop; to hinder to flow.

They had better skill to let blood than stench it. *K. Chas.*

Refringents to stench and incalfatives to thicken the blood. *Harvey on Consumption.*

STENOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [στένος and γραφή.] Short-hand.

O the accurst stenography of state!

The princely eagle shrunk into a batonion and to Cleveland. *Stenograph.*

STENTOROPHONIC. *adj.* [from Stentor, the Homeric herald,

whose voice was as loud as that of fifty men, and φωνή a voice.] Loudly speaking or founding.

Of this stentorophonic horn of Alexander there is a figure preserved in the Vatican. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*

To STEP. *v. n.* [stæppan, Saxon; stappens, Dutch.]

1. To move by a single change of the place of the foot.

Whoever first after the troubling the water stepped in, was made whole. *Is. v. 4.*

One of our nation hath proceeded so far, that he was able, by the help of wings, in a running pace to step constantly ten yards at a time. *Wilkins's Math. Mag.*

2. To advance by a sudden progression.

Ventidius lately

Bury'd his father, by whose death he's stepp'd

Into a great estate. *Shaksp. Timon of Athens.*

3. To move mentally.

When a person is hearing a sermon, he may give his thoughts leave to step back so far as to recollect the several heads. *Watts.*

They are stepping almost three thousand years back into the remotest antiquity, the only true mirror of that ancient world. *Pope's Preface to the Iliad.*

4. To go; to walk.

I am in blood

Stept in so far, that should I wade no more,

Returning were as tedious as go o'er. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

The old poets step in to the assistance of the medalist. *Addis.*

5. To take a short walk.

See where he comes: so please you, step aside;

I'll know his grievance. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet.*

My brothers, when they saw me wearied out,

Stepp'd, as they said, to the next thicket-side

To bring me berries. *Milton.*

When your master wants a servant who happens to be abroad, answer, that he had but just that minute stept out. *Swift's Directions to Servants.*

6. To walk gravely and slowly.

Pyrrhus, the most ancient of all the bathaws, stept forth, and, appealing unto his mercies, earnestly requested him to spare his life. *Knolles's History of the Turks.*

When you stepp'd forth, how did the monster rage,

In scorn of your soft looks and tender age! *Cowley.*

Home the swain retreats,

His flock before him stepping to the fold. *Thomson's Summer.*

STEP. *n. f.* [stæp, Saxon; stæp, Dutch.]

1. Progression by one removal of the foot.

Thou found and firm-set earth,

Hear not my steps, which way they walk. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

Ling'ring perdition, worse than any death

Can be at once, shall step by step attend

You and your ways. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*

Who was the first to explore th' untrodden path,

When life was hazardous in every step? *Addis's Cat.*

2. One remove in climbing; hold for the foot; a stair.

While Solyman lay at Buda, seven bloody heads of bishops, slain in the battle, were all set in order upon a wooden step. *Knolles's History of the Turks.*

The breadth of every single step or stair should be never less than one foot, nor more than eighteen inches. *Watson.*

Those heights where William's virtue might have staid,

And on the subject world look'd safely down,

By Marlbro' pass'd, the props and steps were made

Sublimar yet to raise his queen's renown. *Prior.*

It was a saying among the ancients, truth lies in a well; and, to carry on this metaphor, we may justly say, that logic does supply us with steps, whereby we may go down to reach the water. *Watts.*

3. Quantity of space passed or measured by one removal of the foot.

The gradus, a Roman measure, may be translated a step, or the half of a passus or pace. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

4. A small length; a small space.

There is but a step between me and death. *1 Sa. xx. 3.*

5. Walk; passage.

O may thy pow'r, propitious still to me,

Conduct my steps to find the fatal tree. *Dryden's En.*

In this deep forest.

6. Progression; act of advancing.

To derive two or three general principles of motion from phenomena, and afterwards to tell us how the properties and actions of all corporeal things follow from those manifest principles, would be a very great step in philosophy, though the causes of those principles were not yet discovered. *Newton.*

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One injury is best defended by a second, and this by a third: by these steps the old masters of the palace in France became masters of the kingdom; and by these steps a general, during pleasure, might have grown into a general for life, and a general for life into a king. *Swift.*

The querist must not proceed too swiftly towards the determination of his points, that he may with more ease draw the learner to those principles step by step, from whence the final conclusion will arise. *Watts.*

7. Footstep; print of the foot.

From hence Astrea took her flight, and here

The prints of her departing steps appear. *Dryden's Virgil.*

8. Gait; manner of walking.

Sudden from the golden throne

With a submissive step I hatted down;

The glowing garland from my hair I took;

Love in my heart, obedience in my look. *Prior.*

9. Action; instance of conduct.

The reputation of a man depends upon the first steps he makes in the world. *Pope.*

STEP, in composition, signifies one who is related only by marriage. [Step, Saxon, from stæpan, to deprive or make an orphan: for the Saxons not only said a step-mother, but a step-daughter, or step-son; to which it indeed, according to this etymology, more properly belongs: but as it is now seldom applied but to the mother, it seems to mean, in the mind of those who use it, a woman who has stepped into the vacant place of the true mother.]

How should their minds chuse but misdoubt, left this discipline, which always you match with divine doctrine as her natural and true filter, be found unto all kinds of knowledge a step-mother. *Hooker.*

His wanton step-dame loved him more;

But when the law her offered sweets refuse,

Her love she turn'd to hate. *Fairy Queen.*

You shall not find me, daughter,

After the slander of most step-mothers,

Ill-ey'd unto you. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*

A father cruel, and a step-dame false.

Cato the elder, being aged, buried his wife, and married a young woman: his son came to him, and said, Sir, what have I offended, that you have brought a step-mother into your house? The old man answered, Nay, quite the contrary, son; thou pleasest me so well, as I would be glad to have more such. *Bacon.*

The name of step-dame, your practis'd art,

By which you have estrang'd my father's heart,

All you have done against me, or design,

Shows your aversion, but begets not mine. *Dryd. Aeneid.*

A step-dame too I have, a curst she,

Who rules my hen-peck'd fire, and orders me. *Dryden.*

Any body would have guessed misis to have been bred up under the influence of a cruel step-dame, and John to be the fondling of a tender mother. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

STEPPINGSTONE. *n. f.* [step and stone.] Stone laid to catch the foot, and save it from wet or dirt.

Like steppingstones to save a stride,

In streets where kennels are too wide. *Swift.*

STERCORACEOUS. *adj.* [stercoraceus, Latin.] Belonging to dung; partaking of the nature of dung.

Green juicy vegetables, in a heap together, acquire a heat equal to that of a human body; then a putrid stercoraceous taste and odour, in taste resembling putrid flesh, and in smell human faeces. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

STERCORATION. *n. f.* [from stercora, Latin.] The act of dunging; the act of manuring with dung.

The first help is stercoration: the sheep's dung is one of the best, and next the dung of kine, and that of horses. *Bacon.*

Stercoration is seasonable. *Eschyn's Kalendar.*

The exterior pulp of the fruit serves not only for the security of the seed, whilst it hangs upon the plant, but, after it is fallen upon the earth, for the stercoration of the soil, and promotion of the growth, though not the first germination of the seminal plant. *Ray on the Creation.*

STEREOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [στερεός and γραφή; stereographia, Fr.]

The art of drawing the forms of solids upon a plane. *Harris.*

STEREOMETRY. *n. f.* [στερεός and μετρίω; stereometrie, French.]

The art of measuring all sorts of solid bodies. *Harris.*

STERILE. *adj.* [sterilis, French; sterilitas, Latin.] Barren; unfruitful; not productive; wanting fecundity.

Our elders say,

The barren, touch'd in this holy chafe,

Shake off their sterile curse. *Shaksp. Julius Caesar.*

Thy sea marge sterile, and rocky hard. *Shaksp. Tempest.*

In very sterile years corn sown will grow to another kind. *Bacon's Natural History.*

To separate seeds, put them in water: such as are corrupted and sterile swim. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

She is grown sterile and barren, and her births of animals are now very inconsiderable. *Mor's Antidote against Atheism.*

When the vegetative fructum was once washed off by rains, the hills would have become barren, the strata below yield-

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ing only mere sterile and mineral matter, such as was inept for the formation of vegetables. *Woodward.*

STERILITY. *n. f.* [sterilitas, French; sterilitas, from sterilis, Latin.] Barrenness; want of fecundity; unfruitfulness.

Spain is thin town of people, by reason of the sterility of the soil, and because their natives are exhausted by so many employments in such vast territories. *Bacon's War with Spain.*

An eternal sterility must have possessed the adamantine chains of specifick gravity, if the Almighty had not said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit. *Bentley's Sermons.*

He had more frequent occasion for repetition than any poet; yet one cannot ascribe this to any sterility of expression, but to the genius of his times, which delighted in these reiterated verses. *Pope's Essay on Homer.*

To STERILIZE. *v. a.* [from steril.] To make barren; to deprive of fecundity, or the power of production.

May we not as well suppose the sterilizing the earth was suspended for some time, till the deluge became the executioner of it? *Woodward's Natural History.*

Go! sterilize the fertile with thy rage. *Savage.*

STERLING. *adj.* [Of this word many derivations have been offered; the most probable of which is that offered by Camden, who derives it from the Easterlings, who were employed as coiners.]

1. An epithet by which genuine English money is discriminated. The king's treasure of store, that he left at his death, amounted unto eighteen hundred thousand pounds sterling. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

Several of them would rather chuse to count out a sum in testerces than in pounds sterling. *Addis.*

2. Genuine; having past the test.

There is not one single witty phrase in this collection, which hath not received the stamp and approbation of one hundred years: he may therefore be secure to find them all genuine, sterling, and authentic. *Swift's Polite Conversation.*

STERLING. *n. f.* [sterlingum, low Lat. from the adjective.]

1. English coin; money.

This visionary various projects tries,

And knows that to be rich is to be wife:

By useful observation he can tell

The sacred charms that in true sterling dwell;

How gold makes a patrician of a slave,

A dwarf an Atlas, a Thersites brave. *Garth.*

Great name, which in our rolls recorded stands,

Leads honours, and protects the learned bands,

Accept this offering to thy bounty dues,

And Roman wealth in English sterling view. *C. Arbuthnot.*

2. Standard rate.